Ismahan_Levi Part 1

Ismahan Levi

Writes to faithfreedom.com team.

May 6 2002

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for the opportunity to make my views known. I recently happened upon your web site and, as requested, read through some of your articles fully and, to the best of my ability, with an open mind. I say "best of my ability" because what to me may be an open mind may be justifiably construed as being polemical in the extreme by another. This aside, I felt strongly enough about some of your articles to write this note to you.

As you will note from my name, I am of Arabic descent, married to a Jew. I was disowned by my family and community whose views are based upon the teachings of the Quran which states, more or less, that while a Muslim male may marry a Jewish or Christian woman (provided their children, if any, are brought up as Muslims), a Muslim woman may not marry anyone but a Muslim man. This teaching was, in my case, verified by the local Imam whose word carries weight, despite another of your articles' claim that Islam does not have a priesthood.

I was surprised, therefore, to read a statement in your article on interfaith marriages, which implies that interfaith marriages are allowed. While this is technically true, it isn't complete.

Permit me to go a step further. I decided after years of self-debate to renounce Islam for very simple reasons. Islam, as is the case with Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, et al, has a fight on its hands to prove the existence of any god, leave alone a specific one. Moreover, when any religion claims to have the specific word of a god written in a so-called holy book, it behoves that religion to prove the validity of the book. By definition, an omniscient and omnipotent god's word (book) must necessarily be free of contradiction and falsehood as, for instance, is claimed by the Quran. The demonstration of even one such, no matter how simplistic, refutes, the claim to divine inspiration. Thus, the theory of meteors being missiles cast at spying djinns, apart from defying credibility, does precisely that.

To rephrase an Austrian Emperor, those of your articles I've read are emotional but do not convince.

May I ask that you make your guestbook available for public viewing or, if it is, make a link to it more prominent. Thank you.

Permit me to finish this communication as I began by thanking you for the opportunity to respond and make my views, for what they are worth, known. I also state that I do not, to the best of my knowledge, know or have met Dr Sina, or concur with some of his views.

Regards,

Ismahan Levi

DATE: Tue, 7 May 2002 12:14:38

From: "Faithfreedom.com" [exposelies@yahoo.com] (http://us.f104.mail.yahoo.com/ym/Compose?To=exposelies@yahoo.com&YY=42713&order=down&sort=date&pos=0)

To: ilevi@lycos.com

Dear Ismahan,

We have to acknowledge truth of your claims and we do sincerely apologies if you feel we were not presenting the essential facts correctly. The said article has been noted and a change will be made soon to reflect your points which are more than fair. Though, please do understand this was not meant to in any way mislead. The context of the article is Mr Sina's constant brainwashing. Mr Sina uses the term "unbeliever" in a very loose way, and by telling half truths and making half baked conjecture is able to mislead the already somewhat badly informed public that Islam demands the demise of anyone who does not follow it! - which of course is absurd, because within the Quran there are guidelines for Christians and Jews as well as Pagans who do not make war against the Muslims - to live in peace with one another. Interfaith marriages and the permissibility of Kosher food is just an example of this forever meant to be method of rule.

I am curious to know if you have considered the views of Islamic scholars regarding the interfaith marriage issue. The general argument is that traditionally, (without being sexist) upon marriage the wife is a member of the husbands household. What the husband enjoins, generally the wife enjoins. What the husband dislikes, generally the wife dislikes (or comes to dislike). What the husband permits, the wife permits. What the husband celebrates, the wife celebrates. If that seems far too old fashioned for you then consider this: The man has always been the dominant specie, could 7th century Arabia have worked in the way you want it to? I doubt it very much. Upon entering the household of a Jewish or Christian man the wife would have to do pretty much as her husband demands of her (following on from the teachings of the OT and NT) which I'm sure your aware, on the whole, are less gender equal than the Quran's teachings concerning women.

With that aside I personally have met two sisters who have reverted to Islam yet have Christian or Atheist husbands. For both, their reversions took place after their marriages. One Sister knows exactly what her faith demands of her yet holds back simply because she can't stand to lose her husband. In such a situation I can only say: Your Lord knows best! No one except your Maker can ever know the true feelings you have inside, and everyone is to be judged upon their own merits and upon limits which apply to them in particular.

Thus, the theory of meteors being missiles cast at spying djinns, apart from defying

credibility, does precisely that.

Excuse me if I didn't comprehend your exact belief but as a Muslim and student of physics and of the philosophy of science I constantly battle with atheists regarding the referred to verse. If the idea of "secret beyond matter" i.e. Jinn's appears farcical to you, or the existence of God is something you sternly reject then that does not leave you in a very good position to be making claims that the above defies credibility. If you vividly accept that "Jinn" which according to the Quran are a creation made of "smokeless flame" (which are beyond the spectrum limit of what our eyes and camera lenses can register) actually exist and that they act as spies for their chief, Satan, then the above, as mythical and nonsensical as it seems, begins to make sense in the context it was meant to be inferred. Totally denying the first two realities will inevitably lead to a mocking of the third.

Thank you for taking the time to write to us. We must confess this is the most pleasant reply we have had from a non-Muslim thus far.

Yours,

ff.com

PS: We use to have a guestbook in which we freely allowed people to leave their comments, but this was proving to be a nightmare with the constant removal of offensive (racist), often obscene (links to pornography) content. We will however, soon launch a page whereby we aim to be including comments such as yours.

Ismahan's second letter to the Faithfreedom.com team

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